

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25 with the following amended paragraph.

C1

In this instance, the stem 15 is of I-shaped cross-section to combat unwanted effects arising at or near junction 17 of stem 15 with the ring 14 following a blowing operation on the preform ~~40~~ 26.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

C2

In this arrangement the parison ~~24~~ 36 includes a locating ring 14 immediately below which is a first non-expanding region 30 and a second non-expanding region 31. The first non-expanding region 30 may itself be formed so as to be slightly raised or otherwise differentiated from the expandable portion of parison ~~24~~ 36. Second non-expanding region 31 may not be differentiated from the expandable portion of parison ~~24~~ 36 but, in use, the blowing operation will be such as to ensure that the second non-expanding region 31 is not expanded in the blowing process.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 29 with the following amended paragraph.

C3

The parison 36 of Fig. 5A is then blown in the manner previously described to form the volume 35 of container 37 illustrated in Fig. 5B. The neck portion including stem 15, ring 14, first non-expanding region 30 and second non-expanding region 31 remain unexpanded whilst the expandable portion ~~36-38~~ of parison 36 is biaxially stretched to form the major volume 35 of container 37. The stem end 16 may include the bulbous portions according to the previously described embodiments for connection to container 37 or, either alternatively or in addition can include the application of an adhesive material whereby a chemical bond is formed between stem end 16 and the wall of container 37 by the use of a chemical intermediary.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 25 with the following amended paragraph.

C4

In use preforms and containers blown therefrom can be manufactured as follows: A preform is formed from orientable plastics material, preferably PET or like

C4
material in an injection moulding process. Slidable dies are illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 and include a sliding core 40, sliding blocks 41, body 42, base 43, push block 44 and splits holder 45. Fig. 6 illustrates the die in open position, Fig. 7 illustrates the die in closed position and Fig. 8 illustrates a side view showing accommodation of the stem ~~44~~ 15.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 31 with the following amended paragraph.

C5
The loop ~~403-304~~ is formed in the same mould as and at the same time as the preform 301 is moulded, in a preferred form from PET plastics material.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

C6
In this example the region 310 subtended between first location 307 ~~and~~ and second location 309 remains substantially unchanged during the blowing process and can be considered an extension of and part of the next portion 302 of the preform 301.